

JIVE TALKIN'

Fall 2020

Volume 21, Issue 4

Members Party in a time of social distancing

FOJ tweaks its annual event and partners with Elks Lodge to adhere to current restrictions while still meeting our needs and creating a great wingding.

After months of enduring the myriad restrictions placed upon social events by the pandemic, Friends of Jazz members were finally given an opportunity to let their hair down, socialize and enjoy the company of their peers.

The annual Members Party, held on Sunday, October 18, was the first major event on FOJ's calendar since the Mardi Gras Ball in early March.

The Fullerton Elks Lodge provided the setting — its outdoor patio — and dinner. Jazz students from Cal State Fullerton and Fullerton College provided the music while inviting a pleasing variety of vocalists to take the microphone.

Everyone, of course, adhered to the recommended guidelines, including face coverings and maintaining the requisite distance from others — none of which had any effect on the level of enjoyment felt by those in attendance.

While student musicians were the focus of the evening's outstanding entertainment, pleasant surprises were on hand from the get-go in the form of guest performers.

Is there anything musically that Bruce Babad can't do? In addition to directing a cadre of supremely talented Fullerton College student jazz musicians, Bruce also took the lead on saxophone for many a tune. On top of that, he added more woodwind jazz in the form of his flute-playing. Amazing.

Bruce's fellow Fullerton College professor Mike Scott pitched in with some ex-



Photos by Eric Marchese,
Judi McDuff and Colleen
Wadsworth

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♪ Quarter Notes ♪

Friends of Jazz is looking ahead to 2021 for its Sponsors Party and to award scholarship funds to the two local universities.

The annual Sponsors Party is normally held in January. We're eyeing the Fullerton Elks Lodge as the likely venue, with month and date TBA.

December is when FOJ normally holds its scholarship nights at Fullerton College and Cal State University Fullerton. These events will be held at some point next spring, dates and venues to be announced. ♪

Speaking of F.C. and CSUF, both will be on the receiving end of two new scholarships that FOJ has established for them in the name of Bill Klinghoffer. Bill was instrumental in creating Friends of Jazz and getting it up and running. His passing in 2018 was a huge loss. Each of the two schools will be gifted \$500 per year. ♪

Restaurants are closing in California at record rates of about one in every three. Count Florentine's Grill as among the casualties.

Florentine's opened its doors to our high school jazz band program when Steamers closed up. How the closure of Florentine's affects FOJ remains to be seen. ♪

This publication is produced by Friends of Jazz, Inc., an educational, Orange County-based, all-volunteer, non-profit corporation in operation since March, 1999. Please contact us at 714-871-6342 or PO Box 5671, Fullerton CA 92838-0671.

friendsofjazzinc.com

Eric Marchese, Editor. 714-836-1104

Bistango keeps the live jazz scene going



The Calabria Foti-Bob McChesney Quintet appeared in an outdoor concert at Bistango on October 19. Performing that night: pianist Adam Hersh, vocalist Calabria Foti, bass player Mike Gurrola, Bob McChesney on trombone and Charles Ruggiero on drums.

Photo by Art Pazornik

Live and streaming jazz shows are coming your way

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center has continued to do its part to present musical performances, either live or streaming.

FOJ's own Jennifer Hart delivered a "drive-in" concert at the Muck's west lawn on October 29, selling just short of 60 tickets that included FOJ and Muck Gold members. A highlight of the evening was when Jennifer and bandmates performed "New York, New York" to honor Dottie Batinich, FOJ's Mardi Gras queen. Dottie was and is recuperating from injuries after taking a fall, and the song is among her all-time favorites.

Coming up on Nov. 17, the Muck is partnering with the legendary blues musician Taj Mahal, a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, multi Blues Music award winner, multi-Grammy Award winner and composer in his first-ever live stream performance. A portion of each \$20 ticket sold benefits the Muck. To buy tickets to the event: <https://boxoffice.mandalin.com/collections/taj-mahal>.

Another November streaming event is Jeremy Siskind's show "Songs You Know," being streamed at 5 p.m. Friday, November 13.

The show features Jeremy's new versions of well-known jazz standards, pop songs and gems from the Great American Songbook. Ticket prices is a \$10 minimum. Go to <https://form.jotform.com/202734538439966> to register and purchase tickets.

Debbi Ebert has revived her original solo show "Divalicious," which celebrates women in jazz, and is bringing it to the Gem Theatre in a COVID-friendly live performance on November 6, 7 and 8.

This time, Debbi has created a salute to the life and career of jazz great Lena Horne. Her show will feature songs like "Stormy Weather," "The Man I Love" and "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine."

Tickets to this limited engagement, which are \$30, can be purchased at this site:

grove-ca/divalicious-debbi-ebert-tickets. For more information, call 714-741-9550, extension 221.

The LA Jazz Society is using Zoom to stream a Young Musicians Showcase on November 5 and a Birthday Salute to Johnny Mandel on November 23. To watch or for more information, go to www.lajazz.org. ♪

Jazz Notes makes its debut

Friends of Jazz has launched a new periodical newsletter to supplement the quarterly *Jive Talkin'*.

Jazz Notes made its debut in September and was followed by its second issue in October. The issues were intended to provide news to FOJ members in the two-month period between our summer and fall quarterly eight-page publications.

Judi McDuff is the newsletter's editor, gathering all information for each issue, writing the articles and creating the design of each issue.

FOJ members will continue to receive print editions of *Jive Talkin'* in the mail. You'll also see *Jazz*



Notes in your mailbox eight times per year.

To send Judi information regarding any items of interest to Friends of Jazz members, email her at blondie mcd@yahoo.com



Roy Kobayashi had three passions: jazz; the community of Fullerton; and *The Fullerton Observer* he helped co-found.

Photo courtesy Ron Kobayashi

FOJ observes notable passings

In recent weeks we've lost several figures who have been key to Friends of Jazz.

Members Katherine Fixa, Gabriele Genereux and Bob Hathaway have all passed. So did Roy Kobayashi, whose son Ron has carried forward his dad's passion for jazz by becoming a premier pianist of the genre.

Katherine showed enthusiasm and support for FOJ almost from the start. She resided in Fullerton for more than 50 years and supported CSUF.

At age 99, Gabriele had also



Bob Hathaway

Navy during the Korean War. His engineering career brought he and his family to California. Bob worked in aerospace and earned a law degree, then worked in and supported education in Fullerton. He was active in community and civic groups like Friends of Jazz. He and his second wife, Kaaren, attended many FOJ events and chaired the 2011 Mardi Gras Ball.

Ron Kobayashi said that dad Roy, in his youth in Hawaii, played jazz saxophone and wrote band arrangements. Moving to the mainland, "he saw the high level of musicianship and humbly gave up trying to play for a living living — but he did pass on his love of jazz to me and my sister Lorna."

Roy, Ron said, would "play jazz like Count Basie" around home, even showing him basic chord voicings on the piano. 🎵



Gabriele Genereux

backed FOJ for years and was more active than others much younger. She was an active board member of Music Associates and was editor of its newsletter from 2011 on.

A native New Yorker, Bob Hathaway served in the U.S.

For parties, lessons and more, look no further

Need live music for your next special event? Want lessons? Need your piano tuned? These FOJ resources can help:

Richard Abraham and Debbi Ebert	jazz/piano/vocals	714-323-1426	E
Bruce Babad	jazz saxophone	714-992-7275	E,L
Jennifer Hart	jazz/pops/vocals/piano	949-233-5476	E,L
Jan Jordan	jazz/classical/pops piano	714-731-8845	L
Ron Kobayashi	jazz/classical/pops piano	714-745-0364	E
Michael Le Van	jazz/pops/vocals/piano	562-714-4415	E,L
Jim Boydston	piano tuning	760-855-8578	PT
Christopher Carranza	piano tuning	714-539-0552	PT

Key: E=entertainment, L=lessons, PT=piano tuning

October 18 event lets members socialize, FOJ-style



Photos by Eric Marchese, Judi McDuff and Colleen Wadsworth



MEMBERS continued from page 1

ceptional guitar-playing, as did vocal jazz master Jamie Shew in literally giving voice to the classics on the set list.

Showing off their musical and performing skills and making it look easy were four of Bruce's students: Chris Panameno on alto sax, Cameron Chavez on piano/keyboard, Cole Sainburg on bass and Andrew Yanes on drums.

Going on its first break, this quartet was supplanted by four more great local student jazz masters from Cal State Fullerton: Jaesung Kwon on tenor sax, Zane Johnson on guitar, Luke Bither on bass and Christine Curran on drums, with their director, the acclaimed Bill Cunliffe, on the keyboard, providing a fifth instrumental voice.

Pianist and FOJ member Richard Abraham came up out of the audience to spell Bill,

taking his place at the keyboard. Soon, Richard's wife Debbi Ebert was at the microphone, serving up some old standards plus previews of her upcoming cabaret show "Divalicious."

Debbi was also joined by her vocalist pal, FOJ member Elena Gilliam. We got some Debbi-Elena duets and plenty of solos from both. The ladies soon made way for Jennifer Hart, who brought us more favorites from the Great American Songbook in preparation for an impending drive-in concert at Muckenthaler Center, part of the Muck's ongoing series of Thursday-night outdoor performances tailored to the pandemic era.

As the CSUF contingent went on break, Bruce and his students were back up with more treats. Taking his place at the

digital piano was FOJ member and widely acclaimed jazz pianist Jeremy Siskind. Now teaching at Fullerton College, Jeremy gave us a sample of his talents.

Members like Jerry Wolf deemed the event "a huge success. I liked the socially distanced tables and the fact that we could have at our table people we knew and trusted. The food was very good and the entertainment was spectacular!"

Had the clock not struck 9 p.m. and the Elks Lodge staff begun to clear the tables, the many remaining guests would have been willing to stick around and hear more. It was a clear signal that our membership was happy to have an event to attend – a chance to enjoy each others' company while providing support to the organization.



CSUF and FC jazz students give party its musical voice

Today's up-and-coming talents are the stars of tomorrow. Though they may seem to be in the background, they're really front and center.

Performing at Friends of Jazz's recent 2020 Members Party are (from left) CSUF students Jaesung Kwon, Christine Curran, Luke Bither and Zane Johnson.

Photo by Eric Marchese



The focus of Friends of Jazz's annual Members Party is, of course, our members.

They congregate. They catch up on those they might not have seen for a while. They laugh, converse, have a drink and enjoy some good food in the company of their peers and pals.

The live music often seems to be in the background – at least until after dinner, when most of the focus shifts to the stage.

But make no mistake: Those creating that magical music are on the minds and in the hearts of everyone present. That's never more true than at our Members parties, when the student musicians are young adults who are about to set forth into the world.

Many of these men and women in their late teens and early twenties are planning careers centering on music, whether as performers, arrangers, in the studio or in the classroom – and isn't this why most of us first got involved with FOJ?

The recently held Members Party offers a great microcosm of jazz musicians attending the two local universities. Providing funding is just part of the equation; giving them performing time helps round out our mission.

The October 18 party featured eight college jazz musicians – four apiece from Cal State University, Fullerton, and Fullerton College.

Along with a parade of guests, this octet provided an almost uninterrupted stream of live music for more than four hours.

The Fullerton College contingent was up first. Being directed by, and getting their props from, Bruce Babad were four students, three of whom had received past monetary support from FOJ and who brought to the stage a combined total of more than 23 years playing jazz.

Pianist Cameron Chavez, playing jazz since 2013, was also on keyboard for our 2019 Members Party.

"FOJ really helps out the F.J.C. jazz community," he said, "by having us play at their events as well as gifting us scholarships. It helps us continue our goals."

With even more jazz time under his belt (eight years) is drummer Andrew Yanes, whose succinct comments say it all:

"Thank you for the opportunity. I'm really grateful to come out and play for you."

Cole Sainburg has played jazz bass over the last five years, saying that FOJ "has been generous in supporting me numerous times while I attended F.J.C. They are such an important part of the O.C. jazz community and are deeply appreciated."

Alto saxophone player Chris Panameno, one of three student performers on hand that night to have been on stage at last year's Members Party, calls FOJ "a great organization that, as far as I can tell, cares about the art of music education and, specifically, jazz."

"I really appreciate when people are willing to financially support the music for young adults, and it really helps and pushes our futures in the right direction, whether we decide to pursue music as a career or not." Chris reports that he has

been playing jazz sax for just three years, but his skills on stage tell the story of someone with a tremendous feel for the music.

Bill Cunliffe's quartet of students from CSUF brought to the stage a staggering combined total of 39 years of playing jazz – an average of a decade apiece.

Bass player Luke Bither, with 12 years under his belt, said he and other CSUF jazz students are "very grateful for the support of the FOJ organization. It is encouraging to have others outside of the faculty investing time and finances into our education."

Jaesung Kwon has played jazz tenor sax for 10 years, saying FOJ's "funding (is) very helpful to us, since we are on a budget."

Percussionist Christine Curran, who has served up jazz drumming for nine years, said "CSUF has given me a lot of jazz resources; FOJ furthers a student's study and explorations in jazz through scholarships and concerts."

Guitar and banjo player Zane Johnson has delved into jazz since 2012 and been a ubiquitous presence at FOJ events, having studied first at Fullerton College before transferring to Cal State.

Zane reports that during all of his time at both universities, Friends of Jazz has provided much-needed financial support while also inviting him to perform at the Members parties.

FOJ, he said, "provides a great service for Orange County schools, and I am very grateful for their support."



FRIENDS OF JAZZ, INC.
Second Decade of Keeping Music in Our Schools
Membership Categories for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Gold Benefactor (\$2,500+)	All benefits of Benefactor level plus two complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Mardi Gras gala dinner-dance.
Benefactor (\$1,000)	All benefits of Patron level plus two additional complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Sponsors Party (January 2021).
Patron (\$500)	All benefits of Sponsor level plus recognition at a student scholarship presentation.
Sponsor (\$250)	All benefits of Friend level plus two complimentary tickets to annual FOJ Sponsors Party (January 2021).
Friend (\$100)	All benefits of General level plus two complimentary tickets, when available, to a jazz event at CSUF or Fullerton College.
General (\$50)	Invitation to Friends of Jazz events plus recognition in FOJ newsletter.
Student (\$20)	Invitation to Friends of Jazz events plus recognition in FOJ newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FOR JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

Category _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ Date _____

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KEEPING MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS: OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

_____ Yes, I'd like to help with fundraisers, scholarship awards, mailings! Please contact me.

For more information, call Jean Klinghoffer, 714-871-6342, or Barbara Fischer, 714-526-5667.

Website: friendsofjazzinc.com

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Jeremy Siskind serving up something for which to be thankful

The incredibly talented pianist will deliver a versatile selection as part of a new online series hosted by *Piano Magazine*. The Friends of Jazz favorite's show is on November 13 – just in time for Thanksgiving.

Jeremy Siskind never ceases to amaze and impress us, and it's highly probably that will always be the case. He first came to FOJ's attention as a student. We heaped scholarship funds upon him, but you can bet he would have forged ahead regardless of any such external support.

Playing the piano with sublime skill, expression and technique was just the beginning. He has traveled the world giving performances, seminars and lectures. He's an author and recording artist. And after a lifetime's worth of experience compressed into a few years, he wound up back in Orange County as a faculty member in the jazz studies program at Fullerton College.

If you've had anything to do with Friends of Jazz over the years, you probably know Jeremy and have had the pleasure of hearing him play. If not, you don't know what you're missing.



Photo courtesy Jeremy Siskind

Either way, we'll all have a chance to see and hear Jeremy's pianistic magic on Friday, November 13. He's putting on an online solo show called "Songs You Know."

The performance is part of *Piano Magazine*'s engaging new online concert series "Piano Stories on Stage," which is being presented by The Frances Clark Center.

Each new show is a combination of recital and lecture. Participants will receive an email (from hosting platform Demio) that will contain a link to the concert.

Registrants will be able to watch replays for up to 48 hours following each new streamed event.

Jeremy's Nov. 13 show features performances of and commentary by the artist for premieres of all-new arrangements of some of the best-known pieces in the multiverse – a term Jeremy likes to draw attention to by saying "That's right. The multiverse."

This incredible performance (we already concede it will be terrific!) will include new versions of standards, classics and favorites like "Take Five," "Yesterday," "For Once in My Life," "The Girl from Ipanema," "Imagine" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Even beloved classical music will be on hand with a performance of Chopin's Nocturne in E Flat Major.

The show's date, as mentioned, is Friday, November 13. Showtime is 5 p.m. PST. Minimum ticket price is \$10.

To register, go to this link: <https://form.jotform.com/202734538439966>

We know most of you will register and that you're gonna enjoy this show. 🎵

Here's the latest roster of new and returning members

We offer a hearty welcome to these new members, as well as thanks for their support:

Judy Carolan and Dave Carlos
Mitchell and Debbie Knight
Eric Marchese
Gary Peterson
Nick Ricchio

Sam and Connie Ricchio
Elisabeth Roche

And, welcome back to these wonderful folks and thanks to them for renewing their membership:

Randi Hetrick
David and Julie Hodge
Ted and Sue Stumpf

Friends of Jazz, Inc.

Now In Our 21st Year!

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News & Notes

Through its website, The Jazz Salon is a treasure trove of past performances that were live-streamed and have been archived for future viewing. The Best of the Jazz Salon Concerts feature artists like Denise Thimes, Tamir Hendelman, Barbara Morrison, Nick Mancini, Roy McCurdy, Mary Stallings and Clayton Cameron. You can watch for free, but a donation of \$10 per concert is encouraged, with all funds going to the artists.

To have a look, and a listen, go to thejazzsalon.com



While we don't have specifics yet, Friends of Jazz is looking at early 2021 to hold its annual Sponsors Party, with the Fullerton Elks Lodge as the likely location. We're also hoping to have our Fullerton College and Cal State University Fullerton scholarship nights, normally held at the end of each fall semester, some time in the spring. We'll notify members as soon as we have details.



AROUND TOWN

Debbi Ebert is reprising her acclaimed show "Divalicious" at Gem Theatre in Garden Grove on Nov. 6, 7 and 8. Debbi's live show, tailored to observe pandemic safety guidelines, is part of her series celebrating women in jazz. This time around it's the legendary Lena Horne. For tickets and information, call 714-741-9550, extension 221 or go to grove-ca/divalicious-debbi-ebert-tickets or onemoreproductions.com. You can also catch Debbi at Cedar Creek Inn in Brea at 7 p.m. every Friday and Saturday night.

The Los Angeles Jazz Society is presenting a Young Musicians Showcase on Nov. 5 aimed at "introducing thousands of young people to the joy of jazz and to identifying and nurturing young musicians." Next up: a Birthday Salute to Johnny Mandel on Nov. 23 on what would have been Johnny's 95th birthday. Johnny's daughter, Marissa Mandel, has helped the society assemble a lineup that includes Alan Bergman, Michael Feinstein, Tierney Sutton and others to present The Johnny Mandel Songbook. Leonard Maltin is the host. You can access both events by going to lajazz.org and obtain more details by emailing info@lajazz.org.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center reports that it's "proud to partner with the legendary Taj Mahal to bring you access to his first-ever live stream performance" on Tuesday, November 17 at 6 p.m. A portion of each \$20 ticket sold will benefit The Muck. Taj Mahal sings, composes and plays numerous instruments and has won multiple Grammy and blues music awards. He's a member of the Blues Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement award. To access his performance at the UC Theatre in Berkeley, which is being live-streamed, go to <https://boxoffice.mandolin.com/collections/taj-mahal>

